



Proclamation

WHEREAS, this year, the United States Census Bureau identified Louisiana as the state with the highest poverty rate in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's poverty rate of 20.3 percent is especially devastating for children. 28.3 percent of Louisiana's children under the age of five live in poverty and 49.6 percent are considered to be both low-income and uninsured ; and

WHEREAS, The nationally recognized Better Homes Fund cited Louisiana as the state where children are the most at risk for homelessness; and

WHEREAS, Residents of Louisiana will now take a strong stand and confront this problem head on; and

WHEREAS, All parishes across the state are convening members of their community to converse about problems and solutions to poverty within their region; and

WHEREAS, These Community Conversations will provide the foundational framework for the Governor's Summit on Solutions to Poverty; and

WHEREAS, The impact of poverty has a far-reaching impact on the social, economic, and academic, well-being of Louisiana citizens; and

WHEREAS, A community-focused effort on this long-term problem can directly improve the lives of Louisiana's

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, Governor of the state of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim November 1st- 5th, 2004, as

SOLUTIONS TO POVERTY WEEK

in the state of Louisiana, and encourage all citizens to engage in the Community Conversations within their respective parishes and help create solutions to poverty in the state of Louisiana.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this the 26th day of October A.D., 2004.

Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
Governor of Louisiana



*Attest By
The Governor*

Joseph Keithen
Secretary of State